

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7025

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to recognize, honor, and congratulate Dr. Hal Reed Ramer upon receiving the 2006 Stellar Tribute Award from the Sumner County Foundation.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize and commend those individuals who have devoted their lives to community service and improving the lives of the good people of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hal Reed Ramer, the highly regarded former President of Volunteer State Community College, is one such notable person who has provided tremendous leadership to the education profession and has worked assiduously to improve the lives of the citizens of the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramer has recently been awarded the 2006 Stellar Tribute Award from the Sumner County Foundation in recognition of his charitable and philanthropic character; and

WHEREAS, an honor given annually by the Sumner Foundation, the Stellar Tribute Award recognizes a person in the Sumner Regional Health Systems (SRHS) service area who has made a significant contribution to his or her community by giving freely of his or her time, talents, and financial resources to make the SRHS region a better place to live; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 1970, Dr. Ramer became Volunteer State Community College's Founding President and served with distinction in such position until his much deserved retirement on January 31, 2003. He continues to serve as a Trustee of the Volunteer State College Foundation; and

WHEREAS, a native of Kenton, Tennessee, Dr. Ramer received his Bachelor of Science degree from George Peabody College in 1947, his Master of Science degree from the

University of Tennessee in 1952, and his Ph.D. degree in higher education administration from Ohio State University in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramer's scholarly works include his doctoral dissertation on the role of university academic department chairmen (1963), a chapter in the *Report of the Community Services Commission of Nashville-Davidson County* (1952), and a chapter in *Community Colleges of Tennessee* (1979, each of which was well-received; and

WHEREAS, while at Ohio State, Dr. Ramer held the positions of Staff Assistant to the President, Assistant Dean of Men, and Director of the George Wells Knight International Center; and

WHEREAS, during his ten-year tenure at Ohio State, he was a valued member of Romophos and Bucket & Dipper honoraries and served as the faculty advisor of Alpha Phi Omega and the Social Board; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramer also helped organize and is an active member of the Ohio State University Alumni Club of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, prior to assuming the Presidency of Volunteer State Community College, he served as Assistant State Commissioner for Higher Education with the Tennessee Department of Education from 1963 to 1970; and

WHEREAS, in this prestigious position, Dr. Ramer was head of the administrative staff of the Division of Higher Education with the State Board of Education, then the governing board for the six state regional universities, the community college system, and the technical institutes; and

WHEREAS, working with the Governor, the Tennessee General Assembly, the Commissioner of Education, and the State Board of Education, Dr. Ramer played a crucial role in the establishment of the statewide system of community colleges; and

WHEREAS, serving an educational leader, Dr. Ramer also helped to expand and improve community colleges across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, community colleges have a rich history of providing educational opportunities for all Tennesseans, and integral to this history is the leadership, commitment, and professionalism of Dr. Ramer; and

WHEREAS, constantly serving the educational needs of his community, Dr. Ramer strove to institute policies of open access and equity, comprehensive program offerings, and community-based and committed teaching at Volunteer State Community College and all community colleges across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a renowned speaker, Dr. Ramer has inspired many with his acclaimed graduation addresses at the commencement ceremonies of Middle Tennessee State University, Martin College, David Lipscomb University, Aquinas College, and Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, his lengthy list of awards and honors include the State Department of Education's 1970 Distinguished Service Award, the 1987 Outstanding Education Leader Award given by the Peabody/Vanderbilt Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, the Governor's 1993 State Service Award, the 1995-96 Hendersonville Noon Sertoma Club's Service to Mankind Award, the 1996 Peabody College Distinguished Alumnus Award, 1997 induction into the Saint Thomas Aquinas Society by Aquinas College, the 1999 Presidential Service Award presented by the American Association of Community Colleges, and the 1999 Otis Floyd Jr. Statewide Award for Excellence in Administration from the Tennessee College Public Relations Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramer's more recent awards include the 2003 Excellence in Leadership Award of Trevecca University and induction as a member of the University of Tennessee College of Social Work's Board of Visitors. He is also the first recipient of the Lifetime Service Award from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University (2003), and the Masonic Lodge of Gallatin Community Service Award (2005); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramer served with distinction in World War II as one of those great Americans who earned the rightful designation of the "greatest generation." Dr. Ramer valiantly served with the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1945 to uphold the principles and freedoms we all hold dear; and

WHEREAS, committed to public service, Dr. Ramer is a member of the American Legion and has also received the rank of Colonel and Assistant Chief of Staff in the Tennessee Defense Force State Headquarters, Civil Affairs G-5, Military Department of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he has proven true to his roots, being a native of the "Volunteer State," by contributing his time and considerable leadership abilities to numerous educational organizations, the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America, the United Way, the Gallatin Family YMCA, the Chamber of Commerce, the March of Dimes, and Rotary International; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Dr. Ramer is an active member of the Belmont United Methodist Church, where he faithfully serves as a member of the Administrative Board; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to grasp this golden opportunity to recognize Dr. Hal Reed Ramer for his honorable service to the good people of Tennessee and congratulate him upon receiving the 2006 Sumner County Foundation's Stellar Tribute Award; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Hal Reed Ramer upon receiving the 2006 Stellar Tribute Award presented by the Sumner County Foundation, recognize him for his meritorious service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.